

## Information guide

### Availability of primary communications and accuracy of measurements v1.0

1. As an asset owner you have obligations under technical code C of schedule C3 of part C of the Electricity Governance Rules 2003 (Rules) that relate to the following matters:
  - a. the availability of the primary means of voice, document transmission and data transmission communication (rules 6.1 and 6.2); and
  - b. the accuracy of measurements to be supplied to the system operator (rule 8.2).
2. This information guide outlines your obligations as an asset owner under rules 6.1, 6.2 and 8.2 of technical code C. Please refer to the Rules to ensure you have a complete understanding of your obligations.

The general approach set out in this information guide in no way reduces the requirement upon participants to know and comply with their obligations under the Rules. Neither should it be interpreted as reflecting the Commission's view on the Rules.

### **Availability of primary means of communication (rules 6.1 and 6.2)**

3. Rule 6.1 requires each asset owner to use reasonable endeavours to ensure (make certain) that the primary means of voice, document transmission and data transmission communication described in technical code C, is made available continuously. The reasonable actions an asset owner must take to make certain that the primary means of communication is made available continuously are likely to include:
  - a. where practical, the use of communication designs and systems which exclude common modes of failure;
  - b. the implementation of maintenance procedures and standards to detect and quickly restore faulty communication systems; and
  - c. carrying essential spare components that have long delivery times.
4. Rule 6.2 requires an asset owner to use reasonable endeavours to restore availability of the primary means of communication as soon as practicable if the primary means

of communication is unavailable. Rule 6.2 should be read in conjunction with rule 6.1 which requires an asset owner to take reasonable steps to design and implement a primary means of communication that is available continuously. In this context, the obligation under rule 6.2 to restore the primary means of communications “as soon as practicable” relates to a timeframe in the scale of hours as opposed to days or weeks.

### **Required accuracy of measurements (rule 8.2)**

5. Rule 8.2 of technical code C requires each asset owner to use reasonable endeavours to ensure (make certain) that the accuracy of measurements it provides to the system operator complies with appendix A of technical code C. Appendix A specifies a measurement accuracy  $\pm 2\%$ , measured at the RTU input terminals, under normal operating conditions, at full scale. Accuracy is measured as a percentage of full-scale reading, not a percentage of reading.
6. The reasonable endeavours obligation in rule 8.2 relates to the reasonable actions an asset owner must take to make certain that the accuracy of the measurements it supplies to the system operator complies with appendix A. Reasonable actions are likely to include the implementation of maintenance procedures and standards to restore faulty measurements to within the accuracy limit and may include the provision of systems to detect faulty measurements.
7. The accuracy requirement in appendix A of technical code C is an absolute obligation and applies whether an asset owner is using the primary or backup means of data transmission communication. In the event that an asset owner discovers or is advised that a measurement is inaccurate, it must take all possible steps to restore the accuracy of the measurement to comply with appendix A.
8. In the event that an asset owner discovers or is advised that a measurement is not being updated once every 8 seconds, when provided by the primary means of data transmission communications, it must take all possible steps to restore the update period of the measurement to at least 8 seconds to comply with rule 8.3.

### **Further information**

9. If you have any questions about the information contained in this sheet, please contact the Senior Adviser System Operations and Common Quality at the Electricity commission On 04 460 8860 or by email at: [info@electricitycommission.govt.nz](mailto:info@electricitycommission.govt.nz)